

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 194979

45

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 /073 R

66605

DRAFTED BY: EA/P:STAFF:PP/EB

APPROVED BY: EA/P:AHROSEN

----- 124184

R 012120Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS STATE 194979

C O R R E C T E D COPY (OMISSION PARA 15)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 194979

E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US  
SUBJECT: OCTOBER 1 PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. SCHANBERG (NYT) AT SALA LEK PRAM, 35 MI. NW OF PP WHERE ROUTE 5 TO BATTAMBANG IS CUT, REPORTS GKR SOLDIERS COMPLAIN ABOUT NOT BEING PAID AND SAY THAT US SUPPLIES "DISAPPEAR HALFWAY TO US". FANK UNITS UNDERSTRENGTH AND POORLY ARMED. REINFORCEMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE SENT SOON SINCE MAIN BATTAMBANG RICE HARVEST WILL BEGIN MID-NOV. AND SHIPMENT IS CRUCIAL TO PP'S SURVIVAL. SOLDIERS REPEAT RUMORS THAT REINFORCEMENTS WITH ARMORED CARS ARE ON THE WAY, AND ARE CONFIDENT THE ROAD WILL BE RE-OPENED AS ALWAYS IN THE PAST. THEY ARE USUALLY SERIOUS AND PESSIMISTIC ABOUT WAR ENDING "UNLESS LON NOL AND SIHANOUK COME TOGETHER". THE BETTER-ARMED KI, REPORTEDLY BOLSTERED WITH VC/NVA SOLDIERS, FREQUENTLY TAUNT FANK TO ATTACK. KI STRATEGY SEEMS TO BE TO DRAW AS MANY TROOPS AS POSSIBLE AWAY FROM PP PERIMETER, PRESUMABLY SO REBEL UNITS CAN GET INTO POSITION FOR A PUSH AGAINST CAPITAL AFTER DRY SEASON STARTS. WHILE GKR OFFICIALS SAY TROOP MORALE IS HIGH, AND THIS MAY BE SO AMONG DEFENDERS OF KOMPONG CHAM, SITUATION HAS NOT CHANGED FOR MOST OF THE POORLY-SUPPLIED

AND POORLY-PAID SOLDIERS AROUND PP.

2. FIGHTING CONTINUES ON SOUTHERN PERIMETER 10 MI. FROM PP. FANK Pincer operation on PP western perimeter aimed at Thmat Pong halted as 1 column retreats within 2-1/2 MI. of Linkup. Routes 4 and 5 remain closed (AP, SUN; WP). KI retreat from night attempt to cross Tonle Sap river north of PP after being spotted by Fank; probable target was major POL storage area 1 MI. from city. Fank reports heavy fighting 12 MI. NE of PP on Mekong east bank (UPI NYDN, PHINQ).  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 194979

3. KOMPONG CHAM AIRPORT SHELLLED. FANK CONTINUES PRESSURE TO RETAKE TEXTILE FACTORY AS NEXT STEP TO BREAK THROUGH TO AIRPORT DEFENDERS (SUN, AP; WP).

4. SOUTHERLAND (CSM) REPORTS FROM SAIGON THAT SVN FIGHTING HAS SETTLED INTO PATCHWORK PATTERN AS EACH SIDE NIBBLES TO "ROUND OUT A CORNER HERE OR CLEAN

OUT A POCKET THERE". SOME PROVINCES ARE AT WAR WHILE OTHERS HAVE RELATIVE PEACE, BUT SO FAR NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO POWER BALANCE EXCEPT AT LE MINH WHERE NVA OVERRAN ARVN BATTALION CAMP. LE MINH CAPTURE MAY BE PART OF NVA EFFORT TO CLEAR BORDER AREAS TO COMPLETE ROAD NETWORK. COMMUNIST ROADS NOW LINKED FROM NVN TO NORTH OF KONTUM CITY, GIVING THEM INCREASED MOBILITY AND CAUSING SAIGON CONCERN. GVN ALSO WORRIED BY EVIDENCE OF 130-MM ARTILLERY (16 MI. RANGE) 35 TO 40 MI. FROM SAIGON. NVA NOW HAS SUPPLIES IN PLACE FOR NATIONWIDE OFFENSIVE THAT GVN DOES NOT EXPECT BEFORE NEXT SPRING, BUT "MINI-OFFENSIVES" AIMED AT RECAPTURING HAMLETS LOST SINCE JAN. CONSIDERED POSSIBLE. GVN CASUALTIES HIGH SINCE C-F. ON POLITICAL FRONT, NO PROGRESS BEING MADE TOWARD RECONCILIATION OUTLINED IN PEACE AGREEMENT; IF ANYTHING, PROPAGANDA EXCHANGES HAVE RECENTLY GROWN MORE BITTER.

5. GVN COMMANDER IN PLEIKU SAYS COMMUNISTS IN AREA ARE PREPARING FOR MAJOR OFFENSIVE NEXT YEAR, AND HINTS THAT ARVN MAY ATTACK FIRST (UPI, NYDN; AP, SUN). ARVN FEARS AT LEAST 200 RANGERS KILLED AT LE MINH; SURVIVORS IN AREA BEING SUPPORTED BY AIR AND ARTILLERY; ONLY ABOUT 15 OF GARRISON OF 293 (PLUS DEPENDENTS) HAVE REACHED GVN LINES SO FAR (AP, SUN). GVN SAYS DAILY TRUCE VIOLATIONS ROSE TO 92 (UPI, PHINQ).

6. NVA OFFICER, KEEN US MOVIE FAN, AT RECEPTION IN SAIGON SAID SHIRLEY TEMPLE HIS FAVORITE, AND REFUSED TO BELIEVE SHE IS NOW MIDDLE-AGED AND HAS SERVED AS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 194979

USUN DIPLOMAT (UPI, WP).

7. DENMAN (NYT), FROM SAIGON, DESCRIBES HOME OF VN BANKER AND HIS PEDIATRICS-PROFESSOR WIFE AS COMBINING BEST OF EAST AND WEST FOR GRACIOUS LIVING. COUPLE SAYS THEY ACQUIRED TASTE FOR INTERIOR DECORATING WHILE WORKING IN US.

CHINA

8. CELEBRATIONS MARKING 24TH NATIONAL DAY BEGAN SUNDAY WITH RECEPTION FOR 1,500 IN BANQUET HALL OF PEKING'S GREAT HALL; USLO'S BRUCE AMONG THOSE ATTENDING; CHOU AND CHIANG CHING ON HAND, BUT NOT MAO. NO SPEECHES AT RECEPTION, BUT CHOU GAVE TOAST TO "FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN

THE CHINESE PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD";  
DEPUTY HEAD OF SOVIET DELEGATION TO SINO-SOVIET BOUNDARY  
TALKS AND SIHANOUK AMONG OTHER GUESTS. ONCE OBLIGATORY  
NATIONAL PARADE AGAIN MISSING, BUT PEKING WAS ABLAZE  
WITH LIGHTS AS THOUSANDS STROLLED AND CYCLED AROUND  
TIEN AN MEN (REUTER WP, NYT; AP, SUN).

9. NCNA REPORTED ABUNDANT SUPPLIES ON MARKET SHELVES  
FOR NATIONAL DAY. JAPANESE REPORTS FROM PEKING SAID  
CHINA EXPECTS GRAIN PRODUCTION TO EXCEED 1971'S RECORD  
250 MILLION TONS; ADDED THAT PEKING'S WORKERS, PEASANTS,  
SOLDIERS, STUDENTS AND OFFICE WORKERS PREPARED TO  
STAGE MORE THAN 1,000 THEATRICAL WORKS IN MAJOR PARKS.  
IDEOLOGICAL TONE SET BY SPECIAL EDITORIAL IN MAJOR  
NEWSPAPERS WARNING OF DANGER THAT SOCIALIST COUNTRY  
COULD "DEGENERATE" INTO CAPITALISM AND CAUTIONING

B  
E E E E E E E

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PFOR  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973STATE194979  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** EA/P:STAFF:PP/EB  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731057/aaaabpzj.tel  
**Line Count:** 181  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ORIGIN EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** collinp0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <04-Feb-2002 by collinp0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OCTOBER 1 PRESS SUMMARY INDOCHINA  
**TAGS:** XC, US  
**To:** SAIGON BANGKOK CANBERRA JAKARTA MANILA MOSCOW PHNOM PENH RANGOON SEOUL AIT TAIPEI  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005